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DEPARTMENT FOR AF/SPG, NEA/ELA
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SUBJECT: DARFUR: EGYPT URGES RE-ENGAGEMENT, INCLUSIVITY ON
POLITICAL PROCESS

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¶1. (SBU) The GOE seeks to re-invigorate the idea that UN and AU Darfur envoys Jan Elaïsson and Selim Ahmed Selim engage in "shuttle diplomacy" between the rebel groups and GOS to bring them to a comprehensive political solution, MFA Cabinet Advisor for African Affairs Ahmed Abu Zeid told us on April ¶24. The GOE prefers that the envoys discuss not just the logistics of bringing the parties together to negotiate, but also the substantive political issues of concern. The GOE believes that shuttling between the parties on key political issues is the best way to bring them to a political solution given the fractious nature of the rebel groups, he said.

¶2. (SBU) As a second-best option, Abu Zeid said that the GOE supports the envoys' reportedly current initiative to bring the rebels and GOS together to discuss only security issues, to achieve a cessation of hostilities and provide a basis for further talks. However, Abu Zeid noted that Justice and Equality Movement (JEM) leader Khalil Ibrahim, whose forces are most active rebel "presence on the ground," has said he will not meet with the GOS in the presence of other Darfur rebel leaders, and that Sudanese Liberation Movement/Army (SLM/A) leader Abdulwahid Nur is also on the fence. He warned that without these two important rebel factions, and particularly the JEM, any mediation efforts are "meaningless." He also warned that the talks should include not just the rebels and the GOS but also important neighboring countries, given the deep involvement in the conflict particularly on the part of Chad.

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